

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the present patent application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A training aid configured to strike a ball, comprising:

an opaque and malleable material that is configured to receive at least one impression formed upon impact with said ball and a hitting instrument, said impression comprising a strike zone and at least one ridge; and to be deformed upon impact with said ball;

a deformable sheet that is thicker than said opaque and malleable material having a front face that is adhesively attached to said opaque and malleable material, said deformable sheet additionally having a back face with an adhesive material that is configured to be affixed to said hitting instrument. ; and

~~a means for affixing said training aid to hitting instrument.~~

Claim 2 (Original). The training aid of claim 1 wherein said opaque and malleable material is a metallic material comprising one or more metals.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Original). The training aid of claim 3 wherein said opaque and malleable material is a first metallic sheet that is configured to directly contact said ball.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). The training aid of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 4 wherein said at least one impression further comprises a dimple pattern, said impression that is one or more impressions generated after striking said ball provides information about an impression of how said ball was struck.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The training aid of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 4 further comprising a tab which does not conform to the hitting instrument, said tab providing a writing surface for recording data and simplified removal of said training aid from said hitting instrument.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). A training aid, comprising:

a first sheet composed of a metallic material that is configured to receive an impression from a ball upon impact with a hitting instrument, said impression comprising a strike zone and at least one ridge to be deformed upon impact with a ball;

a second sheet composed of a deformable material that is adhesively attached to said first sheet, said second sheet having a back face; ~~[[and]]~~

a first adhesive layer on said back face of said second sheet, said first adhesive layer attached to a non-stick surface~~[[.]]~~ ; and

a means for determining how said ball was struck according to information derived from said impression.

Claim 9 (Original). The training aid of claim 8 wherein said second sheet is thicker than said first sheet.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). The training aid of claim 9 wherein said impression further comprises a dimple pattern, said impression is one or more ~~deformations~~ generated after striking a golf ball provides an impression of how ~~[[a]]~~ said ball was struck by ~~[[a]]~~ said hitting instrument.

Claim 11 (Original). The training aid of claim 9 wherein said first layer is composed of aluminum.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended). A training aid, comprising:

a sheet further comprising a metallic top layer that is configured to contact a ball and be deformed upon impact with said ball, producing at least one impression comprising a dimple pattern, a strike zone, and at least one ridge, said sheet having a back face; and

an adhesive layer on said back face of said sheet, said adhesive layer having an adhesive that interfaces with a non-stick sheet that is configured to be removed prior to affixing said training aid to a hitting instrument, said adhesive

configured to leave little or no adhesive residue on said hitting instrument when said training aid is removed.

Claim 13 (Original). The training aid of claim 12 wherein said sheet further comprises a deformable sheet that is attached to said metallic top layer.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended). The training aid of claim 13 wherein said deformable sheet is thicker than said metallic top layer, enabling sufficient latitude to accommodate said impression(s).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). The training aid of claim 14 wherein one or more deformations are generated after striking a ball, said one or more deformations configured to provide [[an]] said impression of how said ball was struck.

Claim 16 (Original). The golf training aid of claim 15 wherein said metallic top layer is composed of aluminum.

Claims 17 – 20 (Cancelled).

Claim 21 (Original). The training aid of claim 1 wherein said training aid is adapted for use in a sport selected from the group of sports that consist of golf, baseball and hockey.

Claim 22 (Original). The training aid of claim 8 wherein said training aid is adapted for use in a sport selected from the group of sports that consist of golf, baseball and hockey.

Claim 23 (Original). The training aid of claim 12 wherein said training aid is adapted for use in a sport selected from the group of sports that consist of golf, baseball and hockey.

Claim 24 (Canceled).